

REMARKS

Claims 21-33 and 35-37 are pending in the current application. Claims 21 and 35 are independent claims. Claims 21-22, 26-27, 30, 33, and 35-36 are amended by this Amendment. Claims 34 and 38-39 are canceled by this Amendment. No claims are added by this Amendment.

Telephone Interview

Applicant notes the telephone interview conducted with Examiner Donald L. Storm on July 12, 2007 in which entry of the present Amendment after Final was discussed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication claims 26-34 and 39 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they fail to clearly show significant features of the subject matter specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner asserts the feature "single-ended" in claim 1 and other claims should be added to the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that the feature "single-ended" is removed from the claims, and, therefore, the drawings do not fail to clearly show significant features of the subject matter specified in the claims.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Specification Objections

The Examiner objects to the title because it is not sufficiently descriptive of the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserts the feature “single-ended” should be added to the title. Applicant respectfully submits that as noted above the feature “single-ended” is removed from the claims, and, therefore, that the title is sufficiently descriptive of the invention without amendment.

The Examiner objects to the abstract under 37 CFR 1.72 because it does not describe the disclosure sufficiently, particularly the feature “single-ended.” Applicant again respectfully submits that as noted above the feature “single-ended” is removed from the claims, and, therefore, that the abstract sufficiently describes the disclosure.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Informalities

The Examiner asserts claim 21, and by dependency claims 22-34, are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) because the meaning of the phrase “the distortion” at line 6 needs clarification. Applicant respectfully submits claim 21 is amended to clarify the phrase.

The Examiner objects to claim 22 under 37 CFR 1.75(a) because the meaning of the phrase “the single-ended objective speech quality assessment values” at line 2 needs clarification. Applicant respectfully submits claim 22 is amended to clarify the phrase.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-25 and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollier (U.S. Pat. No. 5,794,188, herein Hollier '188) in view of Hollier et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,119,083, herein Hollier '083). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that claim 21 is amended to include the features of claim 34. Applicant notes again that claim 34 is indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 21 is patentable for at least the above reasons. Further, Applicant submits that claims 22-33, which depend from claim 21, are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in regards to claim 21 as well as on their own merits.

Applicant submits that claim 35 is amended to include the features of claims 38 and 39. Applicant notes again that claim 39 is indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 35 is patentable for at least the above reasons. Further, Applicant submits claims 36-37, which depend from claim 35, are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in regards to claim 35 as well as on their own merits.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Entry of Amendment

Applicant notes that the feature "single-ended" is removed from the claims as discussed with the Examiner in the July 12, 2007 telephone interview. However, Applicant notes that the claims as they appear above, i.e., without the feature "single-ended," were examined in their entirety at least in the Office Action dated November 13, 2006. Accordingly, Applicant

respectfully submits that no new search is needed due to the removal of the feature “single-ended” from the claims and respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment.

Further, Applicant notes the remainder of the amendments to the claims are directed only to claim informalities in the interests of forwarding prosecution and to rewriting claims indicated as allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant again respectfully submits that no new search is needed in light of the amendments to the claims and respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/AAM: tlt